

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 06548 071042Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 AID-05 /072 W

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R 070937Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 6548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH KN KS

SUBJ: GOM MINISTER RETURNS FROM TRIP TO PEKING,  
PYONGYANG, AND SEOUL

REF: KL 6043

1. GOM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ABDUL GHAFAR BABA, APPEARS TO HAVE GOTTEN VERY FEW TANGIBLE BENEFITS FROM THE PEKING AND PYONGYANG LEGS OF HIS JOURNEY TO CHINA AND THE TWO KOREAS. ALTHOUGH THE CHINESE-LANGUAGE KL NEWSPAPER "SIN CHEW JIT POH" QUOTES GHAFAR AS HAVING SAID THAT CHINA AGREED TO "CORRECT THE IMBALANCE IN BILATERAL TRADE" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THIS APPEARS TO BE AN EXAGGERATION. THE CHINESE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO "CONSIDER" THE PURCHASE OF MORE  
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PAGE 02 KUALA 06548 071042Z

MALAYSIAN NATURAL RUBBER, COCOA, AND ESPECIALLY PALM OIL. THERE

WAS NO MENTION MADE IN ANY PRESS COVERAGE ON GHAFAR'S TRIP OF DISCUSSION OF PRC TIN SALES WHICH, AS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF CONCERN TO GOM.

2. ANOTHER KL DAILY, THE "AUTHORITATIVE" AND STRONGLY GOVERNMENT INFLUENCED "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST), ALSO GOT THE STORY OF GHAFAR'S STOP IN PYONGYANG WRONG. THE NST REPORTED THAT GHAFAR MET FOR ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS WITH NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG, IT SHOULD HAVE SAID SOUTH KOREA'S PARK CHUNG HEE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GHAFAR HAS APOLOGIZED TO SOUTH KOREAN CHARGE HERE FOR THE GOOF. ASIDE FROM EXPRESSIONS OF GOODWILL AND INTEREST IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION, GHAFAR SAID THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT A TRADE PACT WITH NORTH KOREA WILL "COME THROUGH VERY SOON."

3. IN CONTRAST, GHAFAR DID COME BACK FROM SOUTH KOREA WITH AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A JOINT DEEP SEA FISHING VENTURE, AND SOUTH KOREAN EXPERTS WILL BE COMING TO MALAYSIA TO STUDY THE PROJECT IN MORE DETAIL.

4. COMMENT: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MALAYSIANS WERE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED WITH PEKING AND PYONGYANG LEGS OF THE TRIP, AND WE HOPE TO EXPLORE THIS IN MORE DETAIL. ON OTHER HAND, WHILE GHAFAR WAS REPORTEDLY PLEASED WITH SEOUL'S HANDLING OF HIS VISIT WE WOULD HESITATE TO PREDICT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC DIVIDENDS FOR SOUTH KOREA.  
UNDERHILL

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